

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-35 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-20. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

GROUP	CLAIMS	CLASSIFICATION
I	1-14	Class 204, Subclass 192.12
II	15-27	Class 428, Subclass 457
III	28-35	Class 204, Subclass 298.13

Applicants have elected Group III consisting of claims 28-35 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper in view of the fact that no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

As set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for a proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in claims

28-35 would include a review of class 204, subclass 192.12, class 428, subclass 457, and class 204, subclass 298.13. Thus, a different field of search really does not exist with regard to the claims of the present application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 28-35 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in the restriction requirement, the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date, if desired, is reserved.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Examiner has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Examiner.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 26, 2004. The Examiner should initial and return the PTO-1449 attached to the Information Disclosure Statement.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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